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SUBJECT: United States Senator John Sununu visits the New Hampshire Veterans Home



PHOTO (left to right): Garry Naughton, Director of Operations for the NH Veterans Home; United States Senator John Sununu; and NH Veterans Home Commandant Barry Conway.

TILTON, NH – United States Senator John Sununu visited the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) on Wednesday, April 4. He talked with residents of the Home and met with members of his Veterans' Advisory Committee. Barry Conway, Commandant of the Veterans Home, welcomed the Senator and thanked him for his consistent and loyal support. Charles Safford, President of the NHVH Residents' Council, presented Sununu with a framed photograph of a group of Veterans Home residents at a Boston Red Sox game.

Sununu thanked the NHVH residents for their service to their country and remarked, "I'm meeting today with representatives of many veterans' groups because I want your voices to be heard." He added, "I just returned from Iraq two weeks ago and had the opportunity to meet with some of our troops. What impressed me was that regardless of

the political debate we hear in Washington—and in spite of difficult conditions in Iraq—they know their job and they stay focused on their mission. We are very proud of them."

He also stressed that US military leaders in Iraq are giving their Iraqi counterparts a strong message: "This is not an open-ended commitment, and success in Iraq largely depends on the ability of the Iraqi government to sustain the mission."

In his meeting with the Veterans' Advisory Committee, Sununu also reflected on how inspiring it was to meet with wounded service people at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He said, "Just days before, they had been in places in Iraq we couldn't visit. What amazed me was that in spite of being wounded, their first thought was, 'Can I get back to my unit? When can I go?' Their morale and commitment were incredible."

Barry Conway, NHVH Commandant, was very pleased that Sununu chose to meet at the Veterans Home. He said, "The Senator has been a long time friend and supporter of the Veterans Home. It is both a pleasure and an honor to have him visit us again today and extend his good will to our Veterans Home family."

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. One of just four New Hampshire nursing homes to win the 2007 Quality of Life Award from the NH Department of Health & Human Services, the modern facility is home to men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

As a professional health care provider, NHVH offers a full range of services including residential, medical/dental and nursing care as well as physical/occupational therapy, recreation, and dietetic and social services. Chapel services, exercise groups, arts and crafts, shopping trips, live entertainment, and various community outings support residents' quality of life. NHVH also offers inter-generational programs and animal-assisted recreational therapy.

In 2004, NHVH opened the 100-person Life Enhancement Dementia Unit to serve the long-term care needs of veterans who suffer from Alzheimer's and other related memory impairment disorders. The facility addition now enables NHVH to provide comprehensive long-term care services to a total of 250 Residents. Additional information is available online at the NHVH website www.nh.gov/veterans or by calling the NHVH at (603) 527-4400.